



Measles: Facts for Child Care Programs

Measles is a very contagious and serious viral illness. It is spread by direct contact with nasal or throat fluid of people who have it or through the air (being in the same room with someone who has measles). Measles is a serious illness that can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and even death. Signs and symptoms of measles may include fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose, inflamed eyes, and sensitivity to light along with a blotchy red skin rash.

Practical Advice for Parents

- Vaccinate your child following state immunization requirements.
- Teach your child the importance of frequent hand washing.
- Watch your child for signs and symptoms of illness.
- Keep your child at home whenever he or she is not feeling well or has signs and symptoms of illness.

Program Responsibility

- Be sure the program's policies and procedures are being followed.
- Encourage hand washing upon entering the child care program, before eating and after toileting.
- Make sure staff are knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of childhood illness. Note the health status of the children when they arrive and throughout the day for such signs and symptoms.
- Let parents know when the child seems ill, has a fever or shows sign of a rash.
- Any child showing suspicious signs or symptoms of illness should be separated from other children and with continual visual supervision, until the parent can remove the child.
- Contact the program's Health Consultant for more guidance, observations and recommendations. The Health Consultant should be available to answer questions of the staff and the parents.
- Review the health records of all children to ensure they are up-to-date including immunizations. Immunization records of infants and toddlers may need to be reviewed more often as they get more immunizations.

Exemptions

According to State Statutes (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-7f and 10-204a) no child may be admitted to a licensed child care program without proof of immunization except:

- A religious exemption is claimed on the basis that the immunization is contrary to religious beliefs of the child/parent.
- A medical exemption on the basis that a given immunization is medically contraindicated and documented by the child's physician.
- Please refer to <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3136&q=388416>

More Information about Measles

Below are links to information/guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/downloads/vacsafe-mmr-color-office.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): <http://www.aap.org>
- Connecticut Department of Public Health: <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3115&Q=560292>

If you have any questions regarding measles and vaccination, please call the Department of Public Health Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.